

A method of accessing remote electronic documents, such as those stored on a network, by recording link information regarding one or more document links embedded in an electronic document, selecting the electronic document for retrieval by the computer system, and displaying the link information on a display screen, prior to downloading the electronic document. The link information is recorded at an earlier time when the electronic document had previously been loaded into the document viewer. The link information can thus be displayed concurrently with the issuance of a request for the electronic document, so the user can see the link information as the document is downloading, and can further select a link contained within the displayed link information, prior to downloading the document. The link information may include a universal resource locator (URL) address associated with one of the document links, or a java applet identifier associated with one of the links. The link information can be updated if it has changed, after downloading the current version of the document.